



## MOSCOW AND ST PETERSBURG IN STYLE

*Admire the grand designs of two of the world's great cities and discover the fascinating story of Russian civilisation in a nutshell.*

Immerse yourself in the art, history and culture of Russia and explore the contrasting styles of her old and new capitals – the majestic cities of Moscow & St Petersburg.

Your tour begins in Saint Petersburg, the city built by Peter the Great and the capital of the Russian Empire for over 200 years. One of the most beautiful cities in the world, its unique history is reflected in its splendid 18th and 19th century avenues, palaces and parks. Take in the city's architectural highlights, discover its classical riches and its lively contemporary arts scene.

Then, take a fast train to Moscow, the mega metropolis whose blend of Imperial decadence, Soviet austerity and vibrant contemporary energy is sure to entertain and enthral. Marvel at the iconic Red Square, the Kremlin and Saint Basil's Cathedral and stroll along famous Arbat Street. Experience the Soviet iconic landmarks: Moscow Metropolitan and Moscow State University.

**TOUR DURATION**  
10 days / 9 nights

**GROUP SIZE**  
6-10 people

**REGIONS VISITED**  
Moscow, St.Petersburg

**START CITY — END CITY**  
St.Petersburg — Moscow

**SEASON**  
Summer, May - September

**TOUR CATEGORY**  
Culture

**PRICE**  
From US \$2490\*





## DAY 1: WELCOME TO SAINT PETERSBURG

Welcome to Russia! On arrival at Saint Petersburg Airport you'll be met by a 56<sup>th</sup> Parallel representative and transferred to your accommodation in the hotel. The rest of the day is yours to rest, relax and enjoy some of the sights and sounds of this elaborate, eloquent city of the far north.

In the evening (*as an option*), discover splendour of the city by night, with a cruise along the Neva River, and if you're up for it, you can attend a magical after-midnight viewing of one of the city's two magnificent bridges drawing. Both locals and tourists gather each summer night to see the bridges opening, and you're sure to be serenaded by some of Saint Petersburg's talented street performers as you watch the spectacle unfold.

### MEALS INCLUDED:

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## DAY 2: THE PERFECT INTRODUCTION

Discover the highlights of Saint Petersburg that no visitor to the city should miss! We take a relaxed, **informative walking tour around the city centre** - the perfect introduction to Saint Petersburg. Walk along the main street, Nevsky Prospekt, cross Anichkov Bridge and walk up the grand stairs of St. Isaac Cathedral. After lunch, walk around the grounds of the magnificent **Peter and Paul Fortress**.

*As an option*, we spend our evening at Kronshtadt, Saint Petersburg's main seaport, on Kotlin Island. This World Heritage listed site was a place of pride and glory for the Russian Navy. You'll have the possibility to enjoy a gala feast inside the Fortress and take a boat trip around the island.

### MEALS INCLUDED:

B, — —

\*price p/person, based on 6 people in the group (twin-share) and will vary less than 6 travelers.

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## DAY 3: RUSSIAN VERSAILLES



Take a day trip to the UNESCO World Heritage listed **Peterhof Palace** on the Gulf of Finland shore. The summer resort of the Romanovs, it is commonly known as the Russian Versailles with its superb array of majestic palaces and manicured gardens. Now a huge open air museum, Peterhof is a must-see in order to fully appreciate Peter the Great's contribution to the development of Saint Petersburg, and the sheer brilliance of his architects and artists. Visit the Grand Palace and the Mon Plaisir Palace, and walk around over 150 stunning fountains.

In the afternoon, *as an option*, we can visit either the Loft Project ETAGI (a huge multifunctional creative space in the middle of the city, complete with contemporary art galleries, bookstores and a hip cafe, or New Holland Island, a former industrial area now being turned into a unique art space and mixed use facility, aimed at becoming a central part of the lives of city residents.

### MEALS INCLUDED:

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## DAY 4: CLASSIC ARCHITECTURE & CONTEMPORARY ART

Experience the extravagance of the Imperial rulers on an excursion to the suburban estates of the Romanov Tsars. **Tsarskoe Selo** (Tsar's village) is now part of the nearby town of Pushkin and is one of Saint Petersburg's finest attractions. Amid exquisite parks and gardens you'll find the baroque Catherine Palace, a dazzling testament to Catherine's love of luxury and royal excess. Envision Catherine strolling with her beloved dogs through acres of private gardens, where remarkable structures like the Marble Bridge, the Dutch Admiralty and the Creaking Pagoda were constructed for her amusement. We also explore the stately neoclassical Alexander Palace, whose tumultuous history paints a fascinating portrait of the Romanov family. Afterwards, you're free to explore the atmospheric streets and classy cafés of Pushkin, widely regarded as Saint Petersburg's most charming suburb.

*As an option* for this evening, we invite you to enjoy the traditional Russian dance performance in Nikolaevsky Palace.

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## DAY 5: RICH RUSSIAN CULTURE



On our last day in St.Petersburg we aim to gain a greater insight into the rich traditions of Russian culture. Our day starts at the **State Hermitage Museum**. There are some 3 million masterpieces on exhibit here, presenting the development of culture around the world from the Stone Age to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Hermitage is made up of 6 magnificent historic buildings, including the Winter Palace, a former residence of the Russian emperors. After lunch you'll be transferred to the train station and boarded on a fast train to Moscow. We'll arrive in Moscow in the late evening and will be transferred to the hotel.

### MEALS INCLUDED:

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## DAY 6: WELCOME TO MOSCOW

Our Moscow discovery starts with an Kremlin excursion, following by walking tour of the city centre. We spend time at Moscow's most iconic attractions, including the Red Square, GUM (a luxurious shopping centre), the colourful Saint Basil's Cathedral and the peaceful Cathedral of Christ the Saviour. Afterwards, take a break on Moscow's oldest thoroughfare, Arbat Street and enjoy a delicious lunch in one of the famous Caucasian restaurant. Take the rest of the day to enjoy the unique atmosphere of Arbat. Listen to street musicians, observe the work of local artists and pick out your favourite souvenirs. The evening is yours to enjoy at your leisure.

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## DAY 7: BACK TO USSR

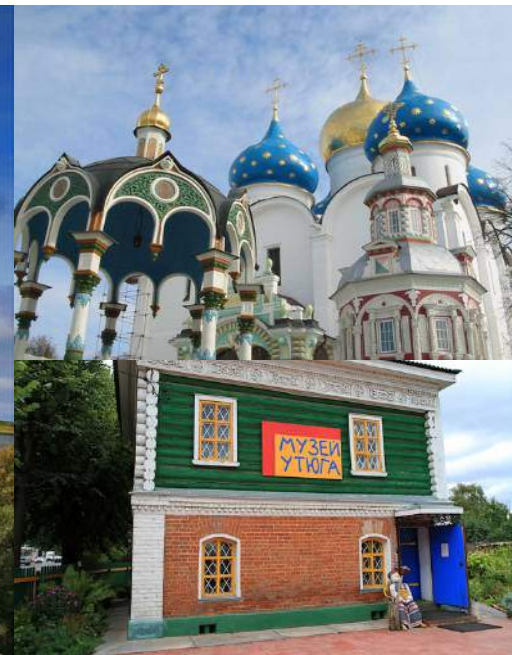
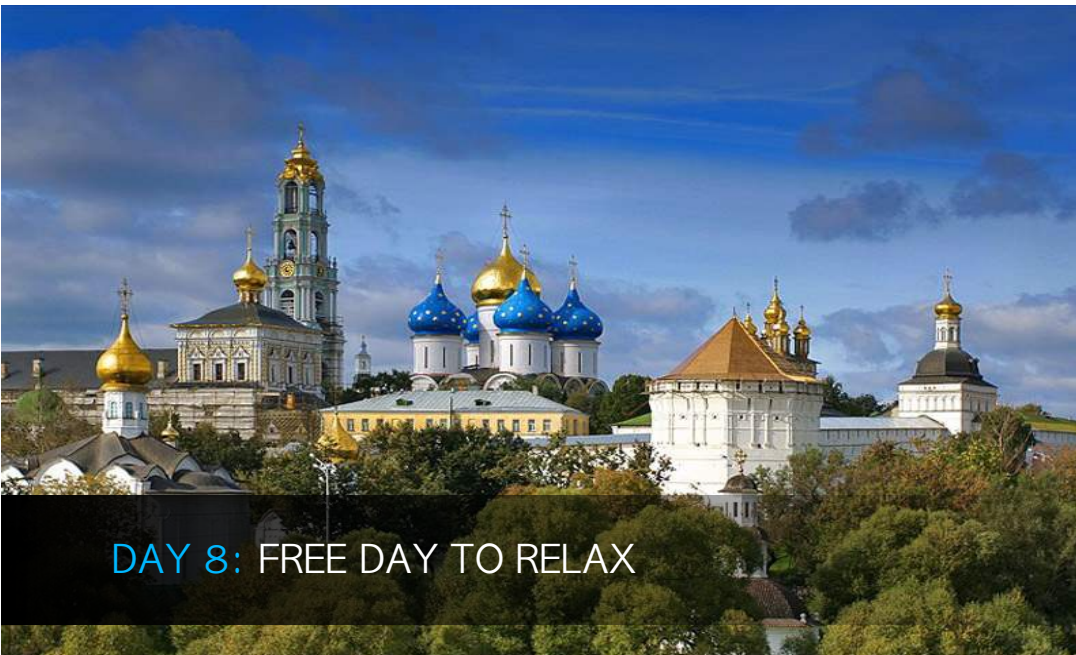


In the morning, we head underground to tour the city via the metro system. The **Moscow Metro** is one of the world's largest and oldest, and its beautiful underground stations are tourist attractions in their own right. Next we enjoy an unforgettable panorama of the city from the highest Moscow's natural lookouts — **Sparrow Hills (Vorobyevy Gory)** and check out one of the Soviet era's iconic landmarks — **Moscow State University**. One of the oldest Russian universities - MSU was established in 1755. In 1940 it was named after Academician Mikhail Lomonosov (1711 - 1765), an outstanding Russian scientist, who greatly contributed to the establishment of the University in Moscow. Today *as an option* we allowed to come inside the Univeristy and enjoy a breathtaking view of Moscow from the 28<sup>th</sup> floor. After lunch we will visit **VDNKh - All-Russia Exhibition Center**. Its territory has a lot of architectural memorials many of which are famous worldwide. The memorials were created in the Soviet times and they represent a memorial of the Soviet era and show the architectural style of that time. Among these memorials we should name monument "Worker and Kolhoz Woman", fountains "Friendship of peoples" and "Stone flower", pavilions of the Ukrainian SSR, the Uzbek SSR, Mechanization and Electrification of Agriculture in the USSR.

*As an option* we suggest you to spend this night on a sumptuous dinner cruise, taking in the sights and sounds of this mesmerising city by night.

### MEALS INCLUDED:

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## DAY 8: FREE DAY TO RELAX

This day is yours to enjoy Moscow on your own, or if you are keen to see more of Russia and its rural life, *as an option* we invite you to join us on a full day (9 hours) «Golden Ring» tour. This tour starts in Moscow, and then we head to Sergiev Posad (about 2 hours drive) and Pereslavl Zaleskiy. In Sergiev Posad, we will visit Trinity Lavra (Sergievo Pecherskaya Lavra), which is the most important center of Russian Orthodox Church. In Pereslavl Zaleskiy city we will visit the historical city center - Zemlyanoy Val. Pereslavl Zaleskiy is famous for its small museums of different tools, for example Museum of Irons and Kettles. Afterwards, leave the city center to take a walk around the lake and enjoy a great panorama of the city!

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## DAY 9: TICK YOUR BUCKET LIST

Today we kick things off at the world renowned Tretyakov Gallery, established at the end of the 19th century as the foremost depository of Russian fine art in the world. Explore its unique collection of over 130,000 exhibits by Russia's greatest artists. Afterwards, we wander around the hip and happening Red October district on Balchug Island and discover the creative side of contemporary Russia. Visit the former chocolate factory, now home to modern art galleries, photo studios and slick bars and restaurants with stunning views of Christ the Saviour Cathedral and Tsereteli's Peter the Great statue.

Take your time to relax as we prepare something special as an option for this evening. After dinner at our hotel we head out for an unforgettable night at the opera or the Russian ballet (option) or an excursion inside the iconic Bolshoi Theatre, and if we are lucky enough, we can enjoy a rehearsal of the world wide famous ballet dancers from behind the scenes.

### MEALS INCLUDED:

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## DAY 10: TIME TO SAY GOODBYE



On our last full day in Moscow, we join the locals in Gorky Park, a modern, eco-friendly recreational area and favourite place for social gatherings and people watching. Rent a bike, join a dance class or simply stroll along the Moscow River. Afterwards, we'll get a glimpse into the daily life of a typical Moscow family with a cooking workshop and a traditional lunch at the family table, together with your Russian hosts. Depending on seasonal ingredients and your personal preferences, you might learn to cook *pelmeni* (meat dumplings), sweet *blini* (Russian pancakes), *varenniki* (cheese, vegetable or fruit dumplings) and *pirozhki* (puffy baked or fried buns stuffed with a variety of fillings). You'll also have a chance to try typical Russian drinks like *kvas* and *kefir* as you savour your meal and enjoy a unique cultural exchange of ideas and experiences. It's time to say our farewells, as today our Russian journey has reached its conclusion. Check out of your hotel in the late evening and transfer to Moscow Airport for your flight back home or extend your trip and visit Siberia — the biggest region in Russia and the perfect adventure playground.

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## ACCOMMODATION



### «IBIS CENTRE» HOTEL / ST.PETERSBURG

This 3-star hotel in the heart of St. Petersburg is just a 5-minute walk from Nevsky Prospekt's shops and only 500 metres from Moscow Railway Station. In-room Wi-Fi is free. Rooms at Ibis St. Petersburg Centre have air conditioning, satellite TV and a work desk. The en suite bathrooms are stocked with a hairdryer and free bathroom amenities. Sud & Cie Restaurant serves Mediterranean cuisine. The hotel also offers the RendezVous bar, where guests can enjoy refreshing drinks and light snacks.



### «IBIS BAKHRUSHINA» HOTEL / MOSCOW

This 3-star hotel is located in the centre of Moscow, a 5-minute walk from Paveletskaya Metro Station. Free Wi-Fi and a 24-hour reception are featured. The bright, air-conditioned rooms offer warm-coloured interiors and modern décor. Each room includes a flat-screen TV and a private bathroom. The on-site Restaurant serves European cuisine, and a variety of drinks is offered at the bar.

### PLEASE NOTE:

*The price is based on accommodation in 3-stars hotel in St.Petersburg and Moscow. If you would like to change the level of accommodation to a 4 or 5 star experience, please let us know, and we will send you the list of best offers for each category. Note, it will change the price.*

## INCLUSIONS

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Airport / train station transfers
- Transport on tour
- Hotel accommodation (Moscow and St.Petersburg)
- Breakfasts
- Experiences detailed in the itinerary:
  - Guided city center walking tour of St.Petersburg
  - Excursion to Peter and Paul Fortress
  - Guided excursion to Peterhof Palace
  - Guided tour to Tsarskoye Selo
  - Guided excursion to State Hermitage Museum
  - The Kremlin guided excursion
  - Moscow guided walking city tour (main attractions)
  - Arbat street guided excursion + The Cathedral of the Christ the Savior excursion
  - Metropolitan guided excursion
  - Moscow State University (Sparrow Hills) guided excursion
  - VDNKh Park guided tour
  - Tretyakov gallery guided excursion
  - Guided tour to Balchug Island and Modern Art district
  - Gorky Park guided excursion
  - Cooking class
- English speaking guide
- Train tickets (St.Petersburg — Moscow)
- Russian visa support letter

### NOT INCLUDED

- International flights
- Insurance
- Optional experiences:
  - Night cruise along the canals (bridges opening)
  - Guided tour to Kronshtadt on Kotlin Island
  - Guided excursion to Etagi and Erarta art projects
  - Russian Traditional Dance Show in Nikolaevsky Palace (tickets)
  - Guided excursion to The Armoury Chamber (in Kremlin)
  - Guided excursion inside Moscow State University
  - Cruise along Moscov River
  - Full day tour «Golden ring» by car
  - Guided excursion inside Bolshoi theatre
  - Bolshoi theatre performance (tickets)
- Visa fees
- Individual transfers

## WHAT TO KNOW

### VISAS AND PERMITS

All foreigners require a valid Russian visa to visit Russia for tourist purposes. For most travelers, a tourist visa (single or double entry is valid for a maximum of 30 days from date of entry) is what you will attain. Getting a Russian visa involves 3 easy steps: Invitation, Application and Registration.

Please note, if you book a tour with us, we will supply you the Visa support document, FREE OF CHARGE.

### INSURANCE

You must have medical travel insurance to travel with 56<sup>th</sup> Parallel. You'll need to supply details of your travel insurance policy to your tour group leader before embarking on your Russian adventure. It's extremely important that your chosen policy covers all aspects of the trip you're undertaking. We recommend contacting your insurance provider for advice if you're not sure which policy to take out.



## **LOCAL TOUR LEADERS**

56th Parallel employ local Russian tour leaders, guides and drivers. This way, we're able to provide much-needed jobs within Russia's fledgling tourism industry, while our guests benefit from our guides' intimate knowledge of the regions we visit. All our key staff are English speaking, and we absolutely encourage you to engage them with your questions and cultural comparisons. A great rapport with your tour leader goes a long way to making your holiday experience truly memorable.

## **TIPPING**

Tipping of guides, drivers and hotel/restaurant staff is up to your discretion. While it's not considered compulsory in Russia, a tip of 5-10% is reasonable if you're happy with the service provided. Tipping is common in restaurants and makes up a significant part of the take-home pay for wait staff.

## **RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL**

At 56<sup>th</sup> Parallel we are firm believers in sustainable tourism and responsible travel.

Our tours and tour leaders are committed to an environmentally and culturally sensitive approach to visiting wilderness areas and local communities. Please visit our Sustainable Tourism page (<http://www.56thparallel.com/how-we-travel-russia/sustainable-tourism/> ) for more information.

## **ABOUT THIS INFORMATION**

All information here is provided in good faith and has been compiled with all reasonable care. However, our itineraries and accommodation sometimes have to be adjusted according to booking availabilities, weather conditions and other factors. We do our best to keep all the information on our website and information kits up-to-date, but please be aware that things can change at the last minute. We encourage you to contact our customer service team if there's anything you need to be sure of – we're always happy to help!